

BREED FAMILY ASSOCIATION

John Breed Newhall,  
Acting President..  
Miss Sarah Ellen Breed, Secretary,  
69 Newhall Street, Lynn, Mass.

Lynn, Mass.  
March 6, 1925

To the Members of the Association:

It is with sorrow that the Secretary announces to the members of the Breed Family Association, the death of our President, George Herbert Breed, which occurred on Jan. 27, 1925. A brief sketch of his life has been prepared for this annual Breed Publication by Warren M. Breed, his life-long friend.

The Acting President is John Breed Newhall, who is one of the best authorities on the history of the Breed family.

A committee composed of H. Morris Kelley and the Secretary were instructed to draw up resolutions on the death of Mr. Breed. The following resolution was adopted.

Whereas, God, whose wisdom is deeper than ours, has taken home George Herbert Breed, the President of the Breed Family Association of America, be it resolved:

That, as an Association, we wish to express our heartfelt grief at his loss, to bear witness of his upright character, his lovable disposition, his friendliness which included all with whom he came in contact, and his spirit of helpfulness which was always watchful.

Be it further resolved: That our written meeting be omitted in respect to his memory, and that a sketch of his life, which was a credit to the family which for nearly three hundred years has lived in this city, be sent to every member of the Association. Be it also resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the local press and to his bereaved family.

The date of the June meeting will be announced later. There is great interest in Boston this year as it is the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Breed's Hill. It is also the fifth anniversary of the founding of the Breed Family Association.

The Secretary always welcomes any communication from any member of the society and extends to all, most cordial greetings.

Very sincerely,

Sarah Ellen Breed

Secretary.

# GEORGE HERBERT BREED. -----

On Tuesday, January 27, 1925, after an illness of only a few hours, our valued President,

MR. GEORGE HERBERT BREED,

was called to his Eternal Home.

Mr. Breed was the son of William Nehemiah of Lynn, and Caroline Augusta (Horton) Breed of Swampscott, and was born in Lynn, April 2, 1859.

He was a direct descendant of Allen Breed, born in England in 1601, who settled in Lynn in 1630, being one of the party coming with Gov. Winthrop to Salem in that year.

Allen Breed, with his two sons, Allen and Timothy, settled in the western part of Lynn and was allotted two hundred (200) acres in a division of the town lands in 1638. This section of the town became known as "Breed's End", a name still attaching to it, Allen Breed being one of its largest land owners.

He was the ancestor of all of his name in America.

George Herbert Breed's descent from Allen was through Allen<sup>2</sup>, Samuel, Samuel Nehemiah, William, Daniel, William Nehemiah to George Herbert.

Mr. Breed's grandfather Daniel established a successful coal business in Lynn in which he was succeeded by his son William N., and the latter's son, George Herbert, succeeded his father in the business. To this business, the leading coal business in the city and the most successful, he devoted his entire active commercial life.

Mr. Breed was an interested participant in the promotion of many of Lynn's activities, and served as a director and clerk of the Board of Directors of the Security Trust Co., as a trustee of the Lynn Institution for Savings, and of the Lynn Hospital Corporation, and as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Universalist Church. Both of the two last named he remembered in his will. He was a former president of the Oxford Club, was secretary and treasurer of the Budget a financial and social club, was clerk and a member of the Board of Directors of the Lynn Storage Warehouse Co., and an officer of the Lynn Chamber of Commerce. He was also a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, of the Massachusetts Society, and Old Essex Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and of the Lynn Historical Society.

He was a 32d. Degree Mason, and a Knight Templar.

From his connection with these various organizations it will be seen how varied were his interests.

He was a home loving man and took great pleasure in his family.

He was a man of the strictest integrity, faithful in his engagements, dependable, capable, conscientious, discreet, and a valued citizen.

He was elected President of this Association while on a tour in Europe in the summer of 1924.

Mr. Breed left besides his widow, Edith Gove Breed, two daughters, Mrs. Malcolm (Helen May) Thomson, and Mrs. Harold (Edith Sutton) Warren, and a son, William Johnson Breed, now a student at Phillips-Andover Academy; also four grandchildren, George Breed Thomson, Davis Scott Thomson, Mary Johnson Warren, and Weston Breed Warren.

Two sisters, Miss Clara M. Breed and Mrs. T. J. Harris (C. Lena Breed) survive him, the latter having a daughter Elizabeth.

Another sister, Mrs. Alfred N. Clifford (Helen Breed) made her home in England after her marriage, and died in Dartmouth, England, in 1919. Of her three children, Gladys H., Gerald K., and Cecil C.H., the second named died in July, 1918, from disease contracted in the trenches in France while in the service of Great Britain, and all of Mrs. Clifford's children served in the World War.



Copy of Letter received by the Secretary from J. Howard Breed, in which he gives an interesting account of how he came to write The Breed Family Record.

Nov. 19, '24.

Miss. Sarah Ellen Breed Sec'y.

Dear Miss Breed:

In reply to yours of the 14th. inst. I will try to give you a few notes on the line you suggest. I have before me the pamphlet entitled "The First Convention of the Breed Family of the United States of America on Sept. 10, 1868 at Jamestown, N. Y." published by Deacon J. C. Breed. The call for that meeting was signed by six residents of Jamestown, all named Breed.

When my father received it he turned it over to me remarking, "suppose you trace our line to Allen 1601". That led to much correspondence and Mr. Chas. B. Whiting of Hartford, Conn. became interested and went to Lynn and traced our connections. When I knew my own line to Allen 1601 I decided to gather information.

In fifteen years I was able to publish the Breed Family Record. The matter which impressed me most was the fact that the majority of those sending me information would not bother with, or did not know the dates of birth, marriage, or death of their own children, much less those of parents or grandparents. Many of those who seemed very anxious that I should complete the Record did not send me one date, but simply a list of names.

A gentlemen (not a Breed) wrote me that he would be glad to assist me if I would send my check for one hundred dollars on account as advance payment for his services. Another "interested" person wrote from England, that he would tell me of the ancestors of Allen 1601 if would send him a copy of the Breed Record...

The complete index and chart makes it easy to trace relationships, but I should have numbered the pages also. A matter of interest to every member of the Breed ass'n is the answers we might find to the following questions:

A. Where did Allen 1601 live just before he sailed from England?

B. Who will be the first to take such dates and location as our Secretary can give them when going abroad, and try to find new points in the Breed family history.

C. Who will correspond with some who have come directly from Holland, and spell their name Brede, with a view to finding some historical record of the emigration of some of the families in the year 1100 to England?

D. Who will show an interest in the tedious work our Secretary, Miss Ellen Breed is doing by sending her dates of the birth, marriage or death of members of their families without waiting for her to write to ask them to do so?

E. Now that Yankees from New England throw away lunch boxes in California, while on vacation trips in their autos, and California men try to have themselves carried to New York as U. S. Mail, having covered themselves with a few hundred dollars worth of postage stamps, and boys in Ohio listen at their bedroom radio to concerts in England and France, why cannot a large number of the Breeds rush family statistics to our Secretary to help bring her records up to date?

Listen, How many remark "I'll say".

Yours very truly,

J. Howard Breed.

The Original Stone Erected to  
**ENSIGN JOSEPH BREED**  
and its Counterpart

THE OLDEST BREED STONE IN THE WESTERN BURIAL GROUND  
LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS

IS THERE AN OLDER ONE ELSEWHERE?



Illegible stone to  
ENSIGN JOSEPH BREED.

"Here lyes the body of  
ensign JOSEPH BREED  
aged 55 years decesed  
November 25, 1713."

The new stone,  
an exact copy of the  
original, completed and  
placed in position by the  
Breed Family Association,  
Summer of 1924.

ONE OF THE BREEDS.  
By, Dwight P. Breed.

I have been asked to present a personal biographical sketch before the Breed Family Association. To do this might seem like a very simple thing, easily accomplished. But for one who has been too busy attending to things of considerable magnitude and importance to pause and think about personal facts and history is trying, if not unworthy. But a grain of sand is a real part of a mountain and except for atoms we would have no world. Small personalities have their place and if functioning properly, are worthy of consideration.

Within the range of my residence and travel our family name has often left me with a lonesome feeling. The "Breeds" do not score up with the Smiths, the Browns, or the Joneses. But a glance through the "Breed Family Record", Dr. J. Howard Breed, author, or a visit to Lynn, Boston, Breed's Hill, or several New England localities, helps us to realize that the "Breed" has been active and useful.

My own line of ancestry runs back through the John Breeds of Stonington Connecticut, Oliver Breed, later of Volney, Oswego County, New York, and on back to Allan Breed, of the 1630 immigrants from England, via Holland.

Reuben Breed, my grandfather, born in Stonington, Connecticut was a tanner and currier of leather, manufacturer, and followed this business all his life. Married Martha Everett in 1786. To them were born nine children, each of whom lived and established homes in which numerous children were reared to usefulness in church and community. He spent his last years in Michigan, dying at the age of seventy-three years.

My father, Samuel Dwight Breed, was born in Volney, New York in 1821. He received a meager education in the public schools of that day and was also taught the craft of making shoes. He moved to Michigan while still a boy. He was industrious and saving and secured a home in the new village of Chelsea, Washtenaw County, and set up its first business as maker and dealer in boots and shoes. He was specially successful in business. He married Orphe Ann Fenn, who soon died, (on October 5, 1843) leaving one son, Reuben Orlando.

This son completed his preparatory work in the Academy in Ypsilanti and entered the State University in Ann Arbor. While a student in this institution he enlisted as a soldier in the Civil War, was made a Company Clerk in the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, and died in Nashville Tennessee in 1864.

Later, my father married Amelia Eliza Bowworth, Smithville, New York, to whom four children were born, Dwight Payson, Amelia Mira, Merle Amos and Gertrude Tamora, each of whom still lives. My father was always a great reader and student and prominent in the

educational affairs of the community, officially and otherwise. He was also a leader in religious work and early kept appointments to preach in the opening neighborhoods of surrounding townships. The Association of Congregational Churches with which the Chelsea Church was connected, made him a licentiate preacher. In the fall of 1859 he left his family in the home and going to Chicago entered Chicago Theological Seminary and completed its "short course" of study. In 1862 he became pastor of the church in Augusta Township, Washtenaw County, which he served for five years. He held later pastorates in several places in Michigan. His death occurred in Ann Arbor when he had become seventy-eight years old.

The experiences of my own earlier years were such as might be expected for the son of a village pastor. I was fortunate in my choice of parents. They had received more education than was common in those days. The Academy and Ladies Seminary had wrought upon their lives and habits and the orthodox Congregationalism of the day had made their home life intelligently and deeply religious. Next to a genuine piety, education and usefulness were the great ends of life. The minister's salary could spare little for school expenses, but the children were allowed to keep all they might earn and their savings always had college and professional training in view. Every one of their children covered the usual curricula. With, in several cases, post-graduate work. With myself the pursuit of education was interrupted by teaching from common district schools to Township and High Schools in various parts of Michigan and Wisconsin. My relation to and administrative work in these schools was, as I now realize, a most valuable part of my own personal education.

My affairs were so arranged that I could take up formal study in Oberlin Theological Seminary in 1869. During the summer vacation in 1872 it was arranged that I should supply the pulpit of the decadent church in Utica, Michigan. Conditions in the church so improved that the people insisted that I remain with them for a full year. I assented to their desires, with the result that the year grew into five years.

A few years before my settlement in Utica I had met a young woman school teacher, Miss Delina M. Briggs, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerub Briggs of the Chesterfield, Michigan Church, of which my father was pastor. Miss Briggs lived much in the home of an uncle in Detroit and received much of her education in that city. While there she attended upon the services and teachings of St. Johns Protestant Episcopal Church, profiting greatly from their education and spirit. Our meeting, which was quite casual and commonplace, proved completely decisive in the experience of both of us. From that hour all thoughts, plans and activities included the two of us. What this meant to us some will know, others may use their imaginations, which they can hardly over-work.



When a few months given to the work with the Utica Church made it plain that I was not soon to return to Oberlin Theological Seminary, Eastern Michigan Congregational Conference took my case up, gave me a license to preach and assigned me to certain courses of study under the tuition of the Rev. Zachery Eddy, D. D., then pastor of the First Church of Detroit. My companion in this study was the Rev. Motier A. Bullock, then of the Oakwood Church, and who later was pastor for twenty-five years of the Vine in Lincoln, Nebraska. The settlement with the Church in Utica made it important that the young pastor should have a home of his own and become really a member of the community. This need was well provided for in connection with the spring meeting of Eastern Conference in 1873, which was held with the Church in Chesterfield. Before that meeting I led Miss Briggs and we were there married by my father and the pastor of the local church. What has resulted from that event through the fifty-two years which have passed, I cannot undertake to record. All lines of work for humanity and for the Kingdom have had a wise, enthusiastic and constant leadership, especially among women and children, from Mrs. Breed, in all the parishes in which she found a home and increasingly, as the years have multiplied, in the work of missions, State, National and world-wide.

From this union four children were born, Reuben the first born grew to manhood, completed the College and Seminary courses, held important pastorates, was called into executive work by the National Home Missionary Society, and later put in charge of the work of the Chicago City Missionary and Extension Society which he effectively handled until his death in 1920. He was most highly esteemed in every way by all who knew him. His wife, Stella, and two daughters now live in San Diego, California.

Clara Delina lived only four years in the body, her memory remains most precious, Dwight Egbert made a large place for himself in the community, in college and for years has had charge of the public health work in the State of Texas. He is married but has no children. He is active in church work in Austin and is known widely in the National Work against tuberculosis. Noel J., youngest son, is pastor of the Strong Congregational Church in Hastings, Nebraska, and influential in the fellowship of that and neighboring states. He has a wife and two children, Margaret and Allan.

From the beginning, the preaching and teaching of this ministry was positively evangelical and its methods, as conditions make it possible, took on evangelistic elements. Under this regime the church greatly increased in usefulness and in membership. The pastor called to his help young ministers of like spirit and their united help was sought by several churches in the vicinage to their strengthening. Such help was asked by the people of a village without a Congregational Church and a genuine revival of religion moved the community greatly. To care for this new work the Utica pastorate was sacrificed and the persistently effective church and work in Oxford was established and became my second pastorate. After three years of fruitful work, unsought "calls" led me in succession to service in Michigan, Indiana, Iowa and Illinois.

In all these pastorates my fellowship relations with other churches led to growing calls upon me for advice to ministers and counsel to churches. Out of this grew the feeling that I was needed for such services among the churches of the State. Arrangements were made whereby I gave my time and efforts for seven years to the churches, looking after their financial enlargement, development of their social effectiveness, increase of their spiritual influence and the strengthening of the spirit and practice of unity and denominational activity among them. This manner of work gave me a large and close acquaintance with the churches of Iowa and with the organizations and leaders throughout the nation. The historic "Iowa Band" planted a college at Grinnell, Iowa, which became one of the relatively few strong, independent colleges of the country. The time came when its interests called for the help of a strong representative to go among the churches, the High Schools, the Association meetings, and to wise, liberal supporters of Christian education, to gather students, to inspire interest and enthusiasm in the work of the college and gain for it a considerable increase of endowment. This need was felt by the leaders and advisers of our State work to be of most pressing importance and I was urged to undertake it. After due consideration I became thus identified with Grinnell College and with educational work. For seven years my home had been in Grinnell, my sons, students in the college and my wife closely connected with its strong church and with the many forms of religious work which had their mid-western center in that place. For nine years I gave myself wholly to the college and felt my time well spent.

Having reached the age of sixty-five years it was thought that I should cease being "a traveling man." I was called to be pastor of the Congregational Church in Summerdale, Chicago. This relation I maintained for four years. My active work was interrupted by two attacks of apoplexy. I was asked to continue with the church as Pastor Emeritus and this relation continues. More pleasant and satisfactory conditions in which for a "retired" minister and wife to spend the closing days of a very active life, would be hard to discover. The earnest spirit and devotion of the church to the work of the Kingdom, its abounding good-fellowship and its affectionate care for us brighten the passing years, and the larger fellowship and activities of our churches in Chicago leave little to be desired and very much to be thankful for. Indeed, life has been wonderfully well worth living and it is a comfort that the Breed, past, present and future has not been hurt but helped somewhat by this particular individual.



## THREE JOHN BREEDS OF STONINGTON.

Prepared by Emma Willard of Washington, D. C. for the Breed Family Association.

The first settlements in Stonington were made 1649-1654 at Wequetequock Cove about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the present village of Stonington and about the same distance from Westerly, R. I. Here is the old graveyard where the early settlers of Stonington were laid to rest after their struggles with the barren soil were over. And here, in the year 1772, twenty years after their deaths, their children placed a memorial stone, with an inscription, for the first John Breed of Stonington and his wife Mercy. It stands in the old graveyard among the Palmer graves, the graves of Mercy's kindred. But my opinion is that John and his wife were buried, not here, but on his own farm, some three miles to the northwest, inland, near Anguilla Brook, which flows southeast and empties into Wequetequock Cove, for there, next to the stone wall which nearly surrounds the graves of their son John and later generations of Breeds are two low unmarked headstones side by side and, at a suitable distance, two similar footstones. Yet, perhaps, in this land of stones, we should not be too sure that these were placed by human hands.

Word comes that an investigator of Essex County deeds in Massachusetts has discovered that the long accepted tale that John Breed of Stonington was a young widower when he left Lynn is a myth, Mary Kirtland having been the wife of his cousin; Capt. John Breed of Lynn, and having lived for many years after the Connecticut John became the husband of Mercy Palmer, granddaughter of Walter Palmer, one of the four first settlers of Stonington. After one's mind has adjusted itself to the facts, it is really a satisfaction to feel that the devotion of John and Mercy who had "lived together in ye marriage state in a most religious manner about 64 years" was whole hearted and undisturbed by the memory of any earlier romance.

So, into the land of Stonington, in 1683, came young John Breed, his heart filled -- we think now -- not with sad memories of a young wife and infant daughter, but with hopeful plans for the future.

On the early land records of Stonington the name of John Breed appears as grantee at least eight times before 1716. Most of the transactions were with Gershom Palmer, his father-in-law. In one of the deeds, he is described as "John Breed of Lynn, shoemaker." It may be inferred that the land purchased lay in the northern part of the present town of Stonington and some of it in what is now the town of North Stonington, which was separated from Stonington and incorporated in the year 1807.

The first reference to John Breed in the colonial records of Connecticut is in May, 1720, when, at the meeting of the General Assembly of the colony, it is stated that "This Assembly do establish and confirm Mr. John Breed to be Ensign of the third company or trainband in the town of Stonington". In 1735 and again in 1741,

Mr. John Breed is listed as one of the two representatives or deputies from Stonington returned to attend the "General Assembly Holden at New Haven". Perhaps it may be questioned whether these references are to the first John Breed of Stonington or to his son John. The older man lived many years after these honors were bestowed and similar honors came to the son, John, so worded that there is no doubt for whom they were intended.

On the Stonington Vital Records, there is entered the marriage of John Breed and Mercy Palmer April 11, 1689, and the births of eleven children; 4 sons and seven daughters, also the marriages of the four sons: John, Joseph, Allen and Gershom. The sons, John and Allen, remained in Stonington, and, in the Stonington records, we find the births of a large family of children entered for each of them.

The Stonington Probate Records previous to 1766 are included with the New London Probate Records and, at New London, there is nothing on the settlement of the estate of our first John Breed of Stonington who died in 1751. If he left a will, it must have perished with some other records that were destroyed when New London was burned by the British Sept. 6, 1781. But, long before his death, his sons, John and Allen, were established in homes of their own near him, probably on lands that he had given them: John, in what is still Stonington, and Allen, a little farther north in what is now North Stonington.

In the colonial records of Connecticut, it appears that "Mr. John Breed, Jun." was made captain of the 3d Military Co. at Stonington in 1736. The "junior" makes it certain that this reference is to the son of the 1st Stonington John Breed, for the oldest John Breed in the next generation was only 7 years old in 1736. From the date 1736, this John was usually called "Capt. John Breed". Nothing has been found to indicate that his father was ever made a captain. In 1746 "Capt. John Breed" was one of two deputies from Stonington to the General Court of Connecticut. On the records of the First Congregational Church of Stonington, it appears that "Aug. 2, 1741 Capt. John Breed and wife Mary were admitted to full communion". Twelve years previous, in 1729, "John Breed, Jun. and his wife owned ye covenant".

When the Revolutionary War came, Capt. John Breed was an old man, no longer in active service and his son Capt. John Breed, Junior, was at the head of his old company in Stonington. But it is said that the house of the older John was used as a fort from which the British were fired upon, while the home of his brother Allen became a hospital where the wounded were cared for, during one episode of the Revolutionary war.

In the year 1780, the three sons of Capt. John Breed were living on three adjoining farms: -- his eldest son, Capt. John, Jr., in the house built in 1689 by the first Stonington John Breed, his 2nd son,

Nathan, on the farm immediately north of it, and his youngest son, Amos, and Amos' family, with himself and his wife Mary, on the next farm, north of Nathan's farm. We learned with regret this past summer that none of the old Breed houses on these three Breed farms are now standing. But, on the first farm, the site of the bark mill built in 1689 by the first Stonington Breed was pointed out, and the mill stone from the old mill, with a round hole in the middle, was seen in the walk leading up to the house which was erected in 1900 when the first Stonington Breed house was torn down, after standing 211 years.

On the next farm -- the one once owned by Nathan Breed, -- is found the old Breed Family burying ground, now sadly neglected, the gravestones at all angles, and accessible to cattle running in the pasture from which it opens. Yet here are inscriptions, plainly decipherable, recording the deaths of twenty-four members of the Breed family, and some are records that have long been sought for elsewhere in vain.

Here is the gravestone of Captain John Breed. The inscription does not call him "Captain" as the probate records do, but "Deacon". His gravestone has been uprooted and lies flat upon the ground. The inscription reads:

The stone for his wife reads:

<p>In memory of Deacon John Breed Who died Jan. 24. A. D. 1781 in 82 yr. of his age The sweet remembrance of the just ----When they sleep in dust.</p>	<p>In memory of Mary, wife of Dea. John Breed Who died Nov. 5, 1799 in the 93d year of her age Righteous live long on earth And in old age resign their breath.</p>
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The three brothers, Capt. John, Jun., Nathan and Amos took an active part in the war for Independence. "John Breed, Jr.," we learn from the colonial records of Connecticut, was made Captain of the 3d Military Co. in the 8th Regiment in the Colony in 1772, having previously served as Ensign and then as Lieutenant of the same Company. The position of Captain he held until his death in 1780. The name of Capt. John Breed is on a list of Officers Pay Rolls for services of State Troops and Militia raised for the defense of the State and allowed by Act of Congress, Dec. 28, 1779, (Conn. Historical Society Collections, vol. 8, page 210). The name of Capt. John Breed appears in "A return of the Eighth Regiment of Foot in the Militia of the State of Conn. for the year 1780" (Conn. Men in the War of the Revolution, page 561).

In the State Archives at Hartford, among the Militia papers, are several which contain the name of this John Breed. One, dated at Preston, Oct. 19, 1772, and signed by "Sam. Coit, Col." is addressed "To Capt. John Breed, Jr., Capt. of the 3d Military Company in Stonington in the 8th Regiment in the Colony". Another is the reply to this communication and is signed "John Breed, Jun.". Here we have



the chirography of the man -- a rough bold hand. Militia paper 2682 is a communication dated at Stonington April 10, 1780, to which 167 names are appended. The Memorial begins "The Memorial of the officers of Stonington, Groton & Preston in the County of New London and others Inhabitants of sd Towns, now of the Eighth & Twenty Seventh Regiments of Militia in Sd. State, humbly sheweth that they lately Belonged to the said Eighth Regiment of Foot, until your Honors later Sessions of the 9th of January 1780, When your Honors were Pleased to Divide the sd 8th Regiment: ----". They complain of the inconveniences of the division. The names appended to this memorial include those of one Colonel, one Major, seven Captains, six Lieutenants and six Ensigns. There are four Breed names on the list. "Nathan Breed, Jr." is the 4th name, "John Breed Capt'n" the 84th name, "Stephen Breed" the 96th name and "Amos Breed" the 99th name. The names from the 84th to the 106th we infer belong to the company of Capt. John Breed, Jr. If so, his brother Amos and his nephew Stephen were in his company at the time. Another paper, dated at Stonington Feb. 19, 1791, bears the signatures of Amos Breed and six others who style themselves "We, the subscribers, being of and Belonging to ye 3d Military Company in Stonington whereof John Breed, Jun. Decd. was late Captain".

The probate records of Stonington contain much of interest in regard to the three brothers; John, Nathan and Amos, and their father, Capt. John Breed, Senior. The will of the older Capt. John was made in 1773. He died Jan. 24, 1781 and the will was approved by the Probate Court, Feb. 15, 1781. After an introduction, he says: "First, I give to my Loving Wife Mary Breed the one third part of my real Estate to improve during her natural Life & the one half of my Household Good, and one Cow & Mare forever."

I give To my Three Sons my wearing Apparel equal to be Divided.

I give To my Daughters one half of my Household Goods equal to be divided.

I give to my Son Amos the Farm I live on and my Farming Tools and the rest of my Stock that I have not given away and all my Just Debts and the Funeral Charges and do further by these presents Constitute and Ordain my Son Amos Breed to be my Sole Executor".

In Aug. 1781, an inventory of the estate of Capt. John Breed was presented at court. Many of the items are articles of wearing apparel. The largest item is "To the Farm and Buildings thereon \$400." The total value of the inventory is \$443.

Capt. John, Jr. had died about two months before his fathers death. We can only speculate as to whether his death came as a result of his devotion to military duty. Nov. 7, 1780, the Probate Court "appointed Grace Breed and Oliver Breed Administrators of the Estate of Captn. John Breed, Junr., late of Stonington Decd". An inventory of his estate was completed early in December. It includes articles of wearing apparel, household goods, guns, powder, horns, cartridge boxes, saddle bags, a cutlas, oxen, 60 bu. Indian corn, 10 bu. wheat, 55 bu. rye. The following list of books is entered:

"1 old Bible, Gospel sonnets, psalm book, book walk with God, military book, other old book". The largest item is "to the land lying in the South Society in Stonington by estimate 120 acres with the Buildings /\$600." The total value of the inventory is over \$856. The boundaries of the farm are given "bounded on the North with Nathan Breed, on the West with Walter Palmer, on the South with Tho. Miner, on the East with Joseph Babcock".

At a later court, the younger children are assigned to guardians: Samuel to his brother Oliver, Mercy to her uncle Nathan, and the children by the second wife, Roswell and Walter, to their mother Grace.

In April 1782, there is "set to Mrs. Grace Breed, Widow and Relict of Capt. John Breed, Jun., late of Stonington, Decd., her right of Dower and Thirds in Real Estate."

The widow is assigned the east half of the dwelling and a portion of land adjoining.

It is not till June, 1784, that the Children are assigned their portions. The six sons are mentioned in order of age, John, Oliver, Prentice, Samuel, Roysel (Roswell) and Walter, and the four daughters Mary (evidently not living) Sarah Stanton, Eunice and Mercy. To John the oldest son, who is married and living in Colchester, is assigned 23 acres of land "which is two Shears or a double portion of sd Decd. estate", Oliver is assigned "The West half of ye Dwelling house and lot of land adjoining", Samuel is to have "a tan yard and vatts and Bark mill." evidently the mill built by his great grandfather Breed.

In the Breed Burial ground, the stone for Capt. John Jr. reads:-

In Memory of Cap  
John Breed who  
Died Nov. 23, AD  
1780 in ye 53d  
year of his age.

There is also a sentiment which cannot be deciphered. Only the foot stone for Silence Grant, the first wife of Capt. John Jr. remains. It is inscribed "Silence Breed". Some fragments of stone with words upon them were dug up, but no name or date was found upon them. We can estimate approximately the date of Silence's death from the fact that her ninth and youngest child, Mercy, was born Feb. 6, 1769, and the fact that her husband married a second wife in December 1773.

The deaths of Capt. John Jr. and Silence are not recorded in the Vital Records of Stonington, nor the 2nd marriage and the births of the two sons of the second wife. Hence Wheeler has omitted these items from his account of the Breed family of Stonington and other genealogists have followed his example.

From various probate records, we learn that Capt. John, Jr. married for 2nd wife his 2nd cousin, Grace Palmer, whose father, Walter Palmer, owned the farm that adjoined his on the west. Several years after the death of Capt. John Jr., his widow married Thomas Allyn.

The inscription on her stone is the only one is the Breed Burial ground that does not contain the Breed name. It reads:

In memory of  
Mrs. Grace Allyn  
Relic of  
Mr. Thomas Allyn  
who died  
Dec. 24, 1816  
in the 77th year  
of her age.

Here are stones for two of the sons of Capt. John, Junior, i.e. Samuel (1765 - 1827) and Roswell (1776-1844) and for the two wives of Samuel, Eunice Allyn and Mary Sheffield, and the two wives of Roswell, Sarah Ann Hancox and Priscilla Chesebrough. The names of three of Samuel's children are on the stones: Samuel who died in 1827, shortly before he did, at the age of 36, and two daughters by his second wife; Eunice A., who died in 1845 at the age of 45, and Harriet B., who died in 1849 at the age of 42. The deaths of two young children of Samuel Jr. and his wife Eliza are also recorded here.

Other gravestones are for Deacon Nathan Breed (1731-1816) and his wife, Lucy Babcock, who died Jan. 1809; for their eldest son Nathan Breed, Junior, (1752 - 1799); for Sarah, daughter of Nathan, Junior, and Sarah his wife; and for Joseph, eldest grandson of Nathan, senior, who died 1808, aged 27.

There are gravestones for Amos Breed (1744 - 1785) and his wife, Lucy Randall, who died 1831, aged 80 years, and for their daughter - in-law, Priscilla, (the first wife of their son Elias) who died 1806, aged 28.

I am wondering whether the descendants of the Stonington Breeds would not like to do something to preserve this neglected graveyard from further destruction.

We have seen that the house built by the first John Breed of Stonington became the home of his grandson, Capt. John Breed, Jr., and that, after his death, part of the house was assigned to his widow, Grace, and part to his son Oliver. Real estate transfers show that Oliver's brother, Samuel, finally came to possess it. After Samuel's death in 1827, his son John, as administrator of his father's estate, sold the place to his half brother, Isaac Sheffield Breed (1804-1882). On the death of Isaac, it passed into the hands of his son, Henry E. Breed. He, it was, who tore down the old house

in 1900, building near its site a new house. The property is no longer owned or occupied by Breeds.

I will close with a quotation from "Homes of our ancestors in Stonington." It refers to a description which Emily Breed Cleland, daughter of Isaac S. Breed, gave of the home where the days of her childhood were passed in the house which sheltered Breeds through seven generations and for over two hundred years -- a house "surrounded by pink and white rose bushes and large clusters of lilacs, which gave forth in the spring such an odoriferous perfume. At the back of the house stood the tall pear tree and the old pippin apple tree, long since fallen, which yielded much delicious fruit. The long row of currant bushes by the wall near the old well, with its sweep and moss-covered bucket; the bed of sage in the garden, kept free from weeds and cut at intervals, to be dried for the family medicine chest; and, in summer, the long tables covered with sweet corn drying out of doors for winter use; all remain in the memory of those who dwelt there".

Dec. 1924



## Correction in Vol. III.

Mrs. Susan A. Pickett

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

## New members elected since April 21, 1924

Mrs. Minnie S. M. Billings	Rutland	Vt.
Mrs. Mark E. Billings	St. Paul	Minn.
Charles Henry Breed	E. Providence	R.I.
Ferdinand E. Breed	Mattapan	Mass.
George Nelson Breed	Bruce	So. Dakota
George W. B. Breed	Roxbury	Mass.
Raymond Burdette Breed	Brookings	So. Dakota
Mrs. Lillian E. Brehmer	Rutland	Vt.
Mrs. Richard T. Burr	Concord	California
Miss Edna Maria Fisher	Brooklyn	N. Y.
Mrs. Ella N. Haskell	West Palm Beach	Florida
Mrs. H. C. Hicks	St. Paul	Minn.
Prof. George L. Hosmer	Woburn	Mass.
Mrs. Florine Lore	Carrollton	Ohio
Mrs. Milo D. McKee	Newton	Kansas
Mrs. Lucy J. Phelps	Dayton	Ohio
Mrs. E. Gertrude Bissell Price	Cleveland	Ohio
Miss Mildred L. York	Edneston	N.Y.
Miss Emma Zug	Pittsburgh	Pa.

## Necrology

George Herbert Breed	Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. Theodore P. Gooding (Ebenena Quiner)	Boston, Mass.
William Basset	Lynn, Mass.
Total membership - 280	